

Claims

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Claim 21 (Previously Amended) A method for the controlled processing of classified file types wherein a first file of a first classified file type is processed into a second file of a second classified file type by a plurality of users with access to a route directed workflow system in a computer network comprising the steps of:

- defining a set of classified file types including a first classified file type and a second classified file type;

- dividing the process into a first classified file type attachment step, a first classified file type download step, a step that processes a first classified file type into a second classified file type, a second classified file type attachment step, and a second classified file type download step;

- defining route steps that specify attachment or download of a file of a specified classified file type;

- producing a route with a route step that specifies attachment of a first file with the first classified file type by a first user, followed by a route step that specifies the download of the first file with the first classified file type by a second user, followed by a route step that specifies the attachment of a second file with a second classified file type by the second user, followed by a route step that specifies the download of the second file with the second classified file type by a third user;

- defining a first file of the first classified file type;

- executing the route in a workflow system directed by the route where the workflow system in response to a route step presents to the user a screen to attach or download a file of the classified file type as specified by the route step;

such that the first user attaches the first file of the first classified file type;

the second user downloads the first file, processes the first file into a second file of the second classified file type, and attaches the second file; and

the third user downloads the second file of the second classified file type.

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Claim 22 (Previously Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein a third file has a parent-child relationship with a fourth file and the file attachment attaches the third and fourth files with a parent-child relationship.

Claim 23 (Previously Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein a fifth file has the same file name as a sixth file and the files are attached and distinguishable.

Claim 24 (Previously Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the route has a loop and the files attached in each iteration of the loop are distinguishable.

Claim 25 (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the route provides a conditional branch capability at a route step and the user at the route step indicates the branch choice for the next route step,

Claim 26 (Previously Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the screen at a route step provides a file download based on the classified file type.

Claim 27 (Previously Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein a seventh file is related to an eighth file in a parent-child relationship and the file download downloads the seventh and eighth files in a parent-child relationship.

Claim 28 (Previously Amended) A classified file workflow system connected to a network with addressed users comprising:

means to define a set of file classifications;

means to designate a file with a file classification;

means to access a route, a sequence of steps where each step provides a user address in the computer network, a file classification, and a file upload or download indicator;

means to access a file storage system to store or retrieve a file;

means for directing a step to the user address in the step and, based on the file upload or download indicator, provide the user means to upload or download a file with the file classification by accessing the file system;

means for comparing the step with the route to determine the next step with a next user address, file classification, and file upload or download indicator;

means for sending the next step to the next user address in the route;

such that the classified file workflow system processes the route and the users at the user addresses in the route steps upload or download classified files with the

file classifications as designated in each route step in the sequence of the steps in the route.

Claim 29 (Previously Amended) The classified file workflow system of claim 28, wherein the files can be designated as a parent-child relationship and attached in the parent-child relationship.

Claim 30 (Previously Amended) The classified file workflow system of claim 28, wherein the files attached in a parent-child relationship can be downloaded in a parent-child relationship.

Claim 31 (Previously Amended) The classified file workflow system of claim 28, wherein a first file is attached and a second file with the same name is attached and the two files are distinguishable.

Claim 32 (Previously Amended) The classified file workflow system of claim 28, wherein the route has a loop and the files attached in each iteration of the loop are distinguishable.

Claim 33 (Original) The classified file workflow system of claim 28, wherein the route provides a conditional branch at a route step and the user indicates the branch choice for the next step in the route.

Claim 34 (Original) The classified file workflow system of claim 28, wherein the route provides a fork branch at a route step such that two parallel sub-routes are started.

Claim 35 (Previously Amended) The classified file workflow system of claim 28, wherein the screen at a route step provides a means to download an attached file based on its classification.

Claim 36 (Previously Amended) A classified file workflow screen for a classified workflow system connected to a network with addressable users wherein the classified file workflow manager is capable of accessing a route, a sequence of route steps where each route step provides a user address in the computer network, a file classification, and a file upload or download indicator; and further capable of accessing a file storage system to store or retrieve a file for upload or download;
wherein:

each file is designated a file classification from a set of file classifications; and the classified file workflow screen for a route step provides for a user at the user address from the route step, the file classification from the route step and a file upload or download, as indicated for the route step, for uploading or downloading of a file by accessing the file system;

such that the classified workflow manager provides for the user at the user address a classified file workflow screen to upload or download a file designated with a file classification matching the file classification provided by the route step to process the route step.

Claim 37 (Previously Amended) The classified file workflow screen of claim 36, wherein the classified file workflow screen provides a file upload which uploads files with a parent-child relationship.

Claim 38 (Previously Amended) The classified file workflow screen of claim 36, wherein the classified file workflow screen provides means to download files uploaded with a parent-child relationship using the parent-child relationship.

Claim 39 (Original) The classified file workflow screen of claim 36, wherein the classified file workflow screen provides at a route step with a conditional branch means for the user to indicate the branch choice for the next route step.

Claim 40 (Previously Amended) The classified file workflow screen of claim 36, wherein the classified file workflow screen distinguishes files with the same file name that were uploaded at different steps in the route.